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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04
PM-05 DODE-00 /057 W

R 282030Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2950
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8096

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR, IT, SP
SUBJECT: ADMIRAL MASSERA'S EUROPEAN TRIP OVER

REF: STATE 257662 (NOTAL)

1. ADMIRAL MASSERA COMPLETED HIS NINE-DAY
OFFICIAL TRIP TO SPAIN AND ITALY OCT 28 AND
IS EXPECTED BACK IN ARGENTINA OCT 30. AS
FAR AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONTENT OF HIS VISIT
IS CONCERNED, WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRESS
REPORTS HERE THAT THE ISSUE DID NOT ARISE
DURING HIS CALLS IN SPAIN BUT THAT IN ITALY
HIGH GOVERNMENT AND VATICAN OFFICIALS PRESSED
HIM HARD ON THE QUESTION OF DISAPPEARANCES
AND DETENTIONS IN ARGENTINA. ACCORDING TO
PRESS ACCOUNTS, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER
CUILIO ANDREOTTI SHARPLY QUESTIONED MASSERA
ABOUT DISAPPEARED AND DETAINED ITALIAN
CITIZENS IN ARGENTINA. ITALIAN SENATE PRESIDENT
AMINTORE FANFANI REPORTEDLY ASKED ABOUT ARGENTINA'S
LABOR PROBLEMS AND THE STATUS OF MISSING AND DETAINED

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LABOR LEADERS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN ARGENTINA.

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Classify: () In Part (X) In Full **DECLINTOROL**

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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2. AT THE VATICAN, MASSERA APPARENTLY HAD A SHARP EXCHANGE WITH MONSIGNOR AGOSTINO CASAROLI, VATICAN SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WHO POINTLY ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION OF SEVERAL CATHOLIC PRIESTS WHO HAD BEEN ATTACKED AND DETAINED OR DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA. POPE PAUL REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SYMPATHY AND HIS WISH FOR A SPEEDY RETURN TO PEACE IN ARGENTINA WHEN VISITED BY MASSERA. THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY'S PRESS RELEASES ON THE VATICAN CALLS REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED THEM AS SIMPLY "COURTESY CALLS".

3. MASSERA'S EUROPEAN TRIP WAS AT THE INVITATION OF ITALIAN AND SPANISH NAVY OFFICIALS AND HE TRAVELED IN HIS CAPACITY AS NAVY CINC RATHER THAN RULING JUNTA MEMBER. THE PRIMARY STATED PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO PROMOTE INCREASED COOPERATION WITH THE SPANISH AND ITALIAN NAVIES AND TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND PURCHASE OF EUROPEAN WARSHIPS AND MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY. TO THAT END, MASSERA ANNOUNCED HIS TRIP WOULD BE FOLLOWED SOON BY ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL NAVY DELEGATION HEADED BY NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF VICE ADMIRAL LAMBRUSCHINI.
CHAPLIN

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